

Today

Unpleasant Throat Cutting.
For 2 Per Cent, 65 Per Cent.
"God, Unconditional Ally."
Poor Compliment for That Ally.

The Kaiser says to his troops on Christmas Day:

"The year 1917, with its great battles, has proved that the German people have in the Lord of Creation above an unconditional and avowed ally on whom it can absolutely rely. With Him, all would have been in vain."

If that is so, the Kaiser ought to be ashamed of the length of time it is taking him to whip the allies. In the old days, when the Lord took sides in a fight, His side didn't sit down for four years in trenches.

There must have been a falling off in efficiency since the days when: "By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed about seven days."—Hebrews, 11:30.

You can't help wondering what kind of performance the Kaiser would have given if the Lord had NOT been his "unconditional ally."

Dr. Halseiden, Chicago gentleman, occasionally decides it better to let an idiot child die than perform an operation to keep an idiot alive for fifty years—a burden on its mother, and then on the community.

Dr. Halseiden attracts attention today by saying, "This nation pays more attention to conserving idiots than it does to caring for normal beings."

It is true that the nation, through the Agricultural Department, pays more attention to the health of pigs than it does to the health of children. But this is a practical age and pigs are worth money.

Dr. Halseiden treads on dangerous ground. He says, "We let the normal man die by thousands through overeating, bad milk and under nourishment." Then he blames the trouble on the fact that "two per cent of the people in this country own sixty-five per cent of the wealth."

Take care, Dr. Halseiden, take care. Wealth is sensitive. Two per cent like to own sixty-five per cent of all the money, but they don't like to be TOLD about it. You will find it safer to stick to your idiots. Read Heine's warning to the man that talked too much.

An American soldier found with his throat cut—after being captured by Germans. The Associated Press alleges that this charge was posted up where Pershing's troops could read it. That is unpleasant news. It probably will prove in the long run to be more unpleasant for Germans than any body else. A few bulletins of that kind, and the gentlemen behind the German lines will be reading some bulletins that will surprise them.

It is unfortunate that even brutal war should sink to so low a plane. But if it must it must, and there have been some in this country not a few men that, in case of absolute necessity, will be able to show the Germans some variations in "schrecklichkeit" quite unusual.

Who will succeed Senator Newlands, chairman of the Interstate Commerce Committee?

The Government of the United States will OWN the railroads, spend billions on them, and make them into a railroad system, OR—

The Government will spend the billions, build up a railroad system—and give it back to the private owners for renewed exploitation after it has been built up at the taxpayer's expense.

In either case, the chairman-ship of the committee that controls the railroad interests of the country.

In November this country's exports fell off twenty-eight millions as compared with one year ago.

And our imports increased forty-four millions.

These figures cause so-called political economists to weep.

But they needn't weep. It is not necessarily a good thing for a country to send out everything except the squeal of the pig.

If we keep more goods at home and import more from abroad, it means that the people HERE have more for themselves. That is not such a bad proposition.

Political economists should remember that the revolution in France broke out at a time when the exports from France exceeded imports for the first time in years.

The interior of the French peasants was more dissatisfied than it had ever been in spite of exports—that caused the trouble.

The prosperous farmer eats eggs, butter, and cream. The poor farmer exports all that to the village store and eats canned goods.

Thank the Lord for common sense in the army at least.

Pershing allows the men to have light wine and beer, to save them from brandy, drunkenness, and drugs—in spite of hypocrisy and Congress.

Now comes the information that "American godmothers," leading ships with musky letters, written by young women and sent to soldiers that the young women never saw, are not wanted.

The soldier doesn't want letters from women that mean nothing to him. The Government hasn't ships to waste carrying such letters. The young women should be encouraged to make themselves useful, or at least not a nuisance here at home.

In war are needed discipline, organization, supplies, FIGHTING, not much.

WEATHER:
FAIR, COLD
TONIGHT
AND
THURSDAY

NUMBER 10,389.

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 26, 1917.

[Closing Wall Street Prices.]

PRICE WITHIN DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, 1c. ELSEWHERE, 2c.

CYANIDE CLUE LEADS TO SECRET BRIDE'S HUSBAND

CRANE TAKES OPTIMISTIC WAR REPORTS TO PRESIDENT

Member of Mission to Russia Does Not Believe Lenin-Trotsky Regime Can Last Long.

By DAVID LAWRENCE.
(Copyright, 1917, by New York Evening Post Company.)

Charles R. Crane, member of the American mission to Russia, dropped in at the White House today and brought with him some welcome optimism.

After leaving Russia Mr. Crane visited the British and French fronts and spent three days with General Pershing at American headquarters.

Views On Russia.

"What may we expect of Russia?" I asked him.

"Of course," it is difficult to keep in touch with a situation that is so rapidly changing and there is very little the United States can do to affect it. No artificial aid can be given. Russia must work the thing out herself and the best thing we can do is to let her alone, keeping up, of course, our Red Cross work and our aid through the railroad commission. When a government emerges that seems to have a reasonable chance of succeeding, we can throw our support to it."

German-Russia Peace Doubtful.

"Will the peace negotiations between Germany and the Lenin-Trotsky regime be successful?"

"I don't see how they can be," replied Mr. Crane. "Ever since the outbreak of the revolution, the popular cry has been 'no annexations.' The attempt has been to have all the nations adopt that as a world doctrine, but I don't believe Germany is going to make peace with Russia without obtaining some territory."

"Do you believe the Trotsky regime will last?"

"I do not—in fact, there are just five crises going on in Russia at this moment, all of which tend to weaken the hand of Trotsky."

"I mean the military crisis, the food crisis, the transportation crisis, the industrial crisis, and the political crisis. Of course, you may regard them all as aspects of the same problem, but each seems to be getting worse as time goes on. I think the Russian problem in some respects is a greater problem than the war itself especially for the future. Think of 150,000,000 people living in a state of anarchy."

President Ambassador.

"What is Ambassador Francis doing in the situation?"

"The ambassador is playing his part skillfully. I think he is the best diplomat in Petrograd."

"What kind of a man is Trotsky?"

"Well, I'll tell you a little story that might illustrate. When I got back from Russia, I went back into the kitchen of my house to tell some of my Russian servants of the things I had seen. My cook said:

"Did you see anything of Trotsky over there?" I said, "Yes, I went over on the boat with him."

"Well," she said, "he owes me ten dollars," and another maid broke in and added: "And he owes me twenty."

"I discovered that in a little Russian club in New York the same Trotsky had managed to collect quite a little fund to make his return journey to Russia."

Mr. Crane spoke enthusiastically of his visit to England and France.

"Of course, there's pessimism here and there, but the strange thing was that the lowest note we heard was in the House of Commons, and the highest in the trenches."

"The spirit of the troops is magnificent. I talked with the British and French commanders. They have now worked out a theory of offense and defense with which they are very well satisfied, and I had an opportunity to see the plans executed in one attack where the French, although the attacking party, lost only 7,000 men, while the Germans lost 30,000. I am quite certain our allies can hold their own until we get there in full force."

Interview With Pershing.

"What does General Pershing think of the outlook?"

"I spent three days with him. I was the only visitor at the time, and I had several long talks with him. He is content and calm, and is very happy over the splendid relationships built up with our allies. I asked him if he had a complaint to make—if he needed anything. He said:

"No, I haven't a complaint to make, and you can tell the folks back home that I think Mr. Baker is the best Secretary of War we have ever had. He is a man of quick decision, and that is what we need."

SHIPPING BOARD'S FIRST SHIP SETS SAIL TODAY

The first vessel of the new United States merchant marine goes to work today. The Shipping Board received a telegram from Capt. J. F. Blaine, district supervisor for the Emergency Fleet Corporation at Seattle, announcing that the Seattle, the first steel ship to be completed under the board's vast building program, sails today on her maiden voyage.

The Seattle, 8,800 tons dead weight, was built at Seattle by the Skinner-Eddy Shipbuilding Company.

GARFIELD SAYS COAL MEN ARE "GOUGING"

Many coal operators have taken advantage of war times and are making much greater profits now than before war was declared, Fuel Administrator Garfield admitted at the Senate coal hearing today under questioning by Senators Jones and Vardaman.

Garfield's statement that the operators must be encouraged by high prices brought a bitter denunciation of the operators by Vardaman.

"I can see no patriotism in the man who insists on making more than a normal profit now," said Vardaman.

"You are not relying on patriotism but higher prices to increase production, and the consumer must pay the bill. Isn't that correct?" asked Jones.

"Yes," admitted Garfield.

Heat Coal Outlook Better.

The anthracite coal situation is fairly good now, Garfield said.

"How have you tried to increase production?" asked Senator Kenyon.

"By placing the emphasis on production, not price," replied Garfield.

Do you believe the operators have made big profits by this campaign?" asked Kenyon, who in Chairman Reed's absence questioned Garfield.

"I hardly see how to stimulate production, without allowing these profits," the fuel administrator replied.

Increases above the President's fixed coal prices have been granted four operators by the fuel administration to stimulate production, Garfield said.

"These are mostly small mines, which would not be able to operate at present," he said.

Baroness Zollner first came to Annapolis in September, 1916, and lived for a time in a fashionable boarding house. Later she rented a cottage near the gates to the Naval Academy. She left here last August.

During her residence here, the Baroness fraternized freely with the families of officers and because of her son's presence at the Academy was given more or less freedom in visiting the grounds.

Midshipman Shope is declared to be greatly unnerved by the charge made against his mother. He refuses to make any statement, and is keeping closely to his quarters. It is stated, however, unofficially today, that the charges against Baroness Zollner will in no way affect young Shope's standing at the Academy.

MERCURY WILL DROP TO 16 BY TOMORROW

When you wake up tomorrow morning and look out the window and see the sun shining, don't fool yourself and think that it is nice and warm. It's going to be cold—much colder, in fact, than it is today, says the weather man.

Fair and continued cold tonight and Thursday, with a minimum temperature of 16 degrees," is the weather forecast.

EXTRA-FARE TRAINS TO NEW YORK FORBIDDEN

The Pennsylvania railroad was denied permission to establish extra fare passenger trains between New York and Washington by the Interstate Commerce Commission today.

MEXICAN RAIDERS LOCATED.

MARFA, Tex., Dec. 26.—The bandit force which raided the town of Candalaria, Tex., was located today, 20 miles south of the international border, encamped 500 strong, according to reports reaching here.

DASHED HOT TEA IN FACE OF BARONESS AT ANNAPOLIS

Patriotic Mrs. E. H. Harrell Presented Slurs of Wife of Captain Zollner on U. S. "Meddling" in War.

ANNAPOLIS, Md., Dec. 26.—A cup of hot tea, thrown full in her face, was the treatment received by the Baroness Iona Zollner here last summer when she voiced pro-German sentiments it was learned today.

The Baroness is now awaiting trial on espionage charges at Chattanooga.

Woman Threw It.

The incident took place at a tea attended by a number of officers' wives and others prominent in the semi-official society of Annapolis. The tea was thrown by Mrs. E. H. Harrell, well known here for her intense patriotism.

Although the United States had not entered the war at that time, feeling was intensely anti-German because of the Lusitania and other incidents.

During a discussion of international affairs, the Baroness Zollner took occasion to voice her disapproval of the "meddling attitude" of the United States, and followed it up by other remarks of a similar nature, it is stated.

Mrs. Harrell took exception to the comments, and threw a cup of tea in her face.

Following the tea-drawing incident, it is stated, friends smoothed over the trouble, and mutual apologies were forthcoming.

It also was learned today that the Federal authorities were cognizant of the Baroness' pro-German sentiments during her stay here, and are understood to have kept her under surveillance, notwithstanding the fact that her son, Beresford Shope, was a midshipman at the United States Naval Academy.

Baroness Was Outspoken.

The Baroness made no secret of the fact that her husband was a captain in the German army, and frequently expressed pro-German sentiments, it is said.

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Hello Girls Voting To Strike, Boston May Lose Phone Service

BOSTON, Mass., Dec. 26.—Boston faces telephone tie-up as the result of the proposed strike of 3,800 operators, according to labor leaders today. The girls began voting this morning, and judging from the opinions of the leaders the result will be overwhelming in favor of a strike to enforce their demands for higher wages.

CUT OUT RED TAPE, SOLONS TELL BAKER

The Senate Military Affairs Committee today told Secretary of War Baker to cut out routine and supply every man in cantonments and training camps with clothing suitable for winter weather.

The committee unanimously adopted a resolution demanding that Baker eliminate red tape, and give camp commanders authority to buy woolen blouses and overcoats in the nearest town, if they can get them quicker than they can the quartermaster's department can supply them.

On the ground that there may be shortages at Camp Dodge, Doniphan, Funston, Wadsworth, Fremont, Sheridan, Greene, and Pike, and other camps, Baker was requested to learn by wire today whether such shortages exist, and if he learns that any camp is in need of heavier clothing that he take immediate action to supply it.

The resolution presented by Senator McKellar follows:

"It appearing to the Committee on Military Affairs of the Senate from a report of the Secretary of War that many enlisted men in Camps Wheeler, Shelby, Kearney, Dix, Jackson, Grant, Custer, Beauregard, and in the camp at Fort Worth, Tex., are without woolen blouses and overcoats, the combined shortage in the several camps above named being not less than 20,000 overcoats and 47,000 woolen blouses, this committee hereby requests the Secretary of War to take immediate steps to supply said enlisted men with overcoats and blouses."

For Immediate Action.

"It further appearing that there may be shortages of said articles at Camps Dodge, Davidson, Funston, Wadsworth, Fremont, Sheridan, Greene, and Pike, and perhaps other camps, the Secretary of War is also requested to ascertain by wire today if any other shortages of clothing exist in any of our camps, and if so that he take such action as he deems expedient to supply them immediately."

"It is the sense of this committee that, with the cold season now on, the usual routine shall be suspended as to this matter, and that the commanders of the several camps shall be directed, if this is the quickest way, to buy these articles at the nearest points to their camp at which they can be obtained so that our soldiers may be supplied as soon as possible."

McKellar presented telegrams from commanders of practically every cantonment.

The explorer and his party probably will make their way to Nome and take the steamer there. It is thought here that Stefansson spent last winter on McVie Island. His party comprises about twenty-four men.

The explorer set out for the north in 1915.

STEFANSEN PARTY ARRIVES SAFELY AT ALASKAN PORT

OTTAWA, Ont., Dec. 26.—Deputy Minister of Naval Affairs Desbarats announced this afternoon that he had received word from Port Yukon, Alaska, that Explorer Stefansson and his party have arrived there safely.

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GERMANS ASK PEACE PARLEY ADJOURNMENT UNTIL JAN. 24

In the Meantime They Are Making a Supreme Effort to Reach Venetian Plains Before Winter Sets In.

PETROGRAD, Dec. 26.—Germany has asked postponement of peace negotiations until January 24, according to semi-official announcement here today.

BOLSHEVIK COMPROMISE WITH SOCIAL DEMOCRATS; COALITION IS UNDER WAY

PETROGRAD, Dec. 26.—A compromise has been effected between the Bolsheviks and the social revolutionaries, and a coalition government is being formed, the Telegraph Agency announced today.

Seven members of the social revolutionary party will be included in the new cabinet, it was said.

The Bolsheviks and social revolutionaries have been at odds over the radical program of the Bolshevik government and its peace plotting.

VIOLENT ALLY ATTACKS REPULSED WITH LOSSES; GERMAN REPORT CLAIMS

BRUSSELS (via London), Dec. 26.—Violent enemy counter-attacks in the neighborhood of Colfelo and at neighboring heights broke down with heavy losses to the attacking forces, today's German official statement says.

PLOT TO OVERTHROW KING OF ROUMANIA REVEALED IN BOLSHEVIK DISPATCHES

PETROGRAD, Dec. 26.—News of a revolutionary plot against King Ferdinand of Roumania has been received at the Smolny Institute, the Bolshevik headquarters. There also are said to be disturbed conditions in Roumania. These reports are confirmed in some respects by dispatches received here indicating unsettled conditions and a political crisis.

There has been little news from Roumania since the Roumanian army was forced to agree to an armistice on the eastern front. It has been reported Bolsheviks and German propaganda were at work among the Roumanian troops. A few days ago General Sticherbachoff, the Russian commander in Roumania, was reported to have taken command of the Ukrainian troops.

BEARER OF DISPATCHES FROM RUSSIA ARRIVES TO EXPLAIN SITUATION

AN ATLANTIC PORT, Dec. 26.—Carrying important dispatches from American Ambassador to Russia Francis to the State Department, C. T. Williams, secretary of the American Red Cross in Roumania, arrived at this port today on a liner from Archangel, en route to Washington. Mrs. Butler Wright, wife of the counselor of the American embassy in Petrograd, arrived on the same liner.

The dispatches brought by Williams are a detailed account of the true situation in Russia, and are of the utmost importance. They give it.

(Continued on Page 2, Column 4.)

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FAVOR RAY BAKER AS SUCCESSOR TO NEWLANDS

Capital gossip today named Ray Baker, of Reno, Nev., director of the mint, as likely to succeed the late Senator Francis G. Newlands of Nevada. Governor Boyle, of Nevada, is expected to appoint a successor to fill the seat until an election is held.

Baker, according to Reno advice, planned to run against Newlands four years hence at the regular election. Baker is a close friend of Senator Pittman of Nevada, also stands well with the governor, and is reported here to be agreeable to the Administration.

J. P. Tumulty, secretary to the President, and Senator Phelan of California are said to favor Baker's selection.

WILLIAMS FOR R.R. DICTATOR, IS REPORT

John Skeften Williams, Comptroller of the Currency, will tonight be named railroad dictator, according to good authority this afternoon. It was stated that the President has determined taking this step without consulting Congress. The entire operation of all the roads will be placed in Williams' hands, and he will be given power through use of which he will be expected to bring order out of the existing transportation chaos.

The statement was made in high circles here that the nation's transportation facilities would be taken over by the President of the United States on Monday, December 31, next, according to a Washington dispatch to the New York Times.

While no confirmation of this statement was forthcoming from the White House, the information given to the Times is that the President has decided finally upon this step as a way to solve the problem of the increasing railroad congestion.

The President's proclamation has been prepared, it is said, and is ready to be made public after his conference with representatives of the Big Four brotherhoods and the railroad presidents later in the week.

Wage Problem Insistent.

An immediate problem before the Government is the demand of the brotherhoods for increased wages. The President proposes to obtain a complete agreement with the officials of the brotherhoods when they come here tomorrow at his request as to their attitude on wages when the roads come under Government control.

The report here is that these officials are prepared to assure the President that they will loyally support the Government, and that a satisfactory

(Continued on Page 4, Col. 2.)

CHILD IS KILLED, 3 HOMES LOST IN QUEEN CITY FIRE

One child was burned to death, three houses destroyed and another partly burned by a fire which threatened for a while to wipe the town of Queen City, Va., off the map shortly before noon today.

The fire broke out in the home of Mrs. Lavina Motrie, when her granddaughter, Rene Henry, thirteen years old, was left alone while her grandmother went to work.

Only the work of the chemical engine from the Government's experiment farm near Arlington Cemetery prevented the destruction of the town. Engine Company, No. 16, from Washington and the Cherrydale Volunteer fire department arrived after the fire was under control.

Washington fire fighters are spraying the ruins and searching for the body of Rene Henry.

In addition to Mrs. Motrie's house the home of Mrs. Maude Silway and a vacant house were burned to the ground. Mrs. Fannie Lipscomb's house was half burned.

Damage is estimated at \$2,000. Queen City is about two miles south from the Virginia end of the Highway bridge on the Arlington branch of the Washington and Virginia railway. Coroner Ashton of Ballston is conducting an investigation.

Pastor Comes To Cheer.

Among his callers yesterday was the Rev. J. R. Johnson, pastor of the Venable Street Baptist Church. Mr. Johnson married Dr. Johnson and his bride on September 15 at the church parsonage, and less than three months later preached the bride's funeral.

"Innocent or guilty, I have come to minister to you in any way that I can," said the minister. "Only you and your God know the secret."

"But there is no secret," interrupted the young dentist.